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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 8, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 3 totaled an estimated 19.8 billion ton-miles, 3.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 40 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 714.2 billion ton-miles, 1.8 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 3 totaled 451,625 cars, 1.6 percent below 1980, and 0.1 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.1 percent in the East, but down 0.3 percent in the South, and 4.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal and metallic ores were up 17.1 percent and 13.3 percent respectively, and coke loadings showed a gain of 58.7 percent.

Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended September 26 totaled 35,777 cars, up 6.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 67,030 trailers and/or containers, up 10.5 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 39 weeks of the year was 1,268,985 cars, 1.8 percent higher than last year, and 2,299,855 trailers and/or containers, 1.4 percent higher than last year.

(more)

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/3/81:

	Loadings in Week ended October 3, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,809	D	9,935	28.6	I	80	0.3
Other farm products	4,936	D	340	6.4	I	525	11.9
Metallic ores	32,300	I	3,794	13.3	D	1,018	3.1
Coal	137,887	I	20,098	17.1	I	322	0.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,524	D	2,644	17.4	D	498	3.8
Nonmetallic minerals	13,243	D	3,127	19.1	D	675	4.8
Grain mill products	14,638	D	2,994	17.0	D	312	2.1
Food and kindred products	15,382	D	2,843	15.6	D	525	3.3
Primary forest products	18,515	D	348	1.8	D	511	2.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,152	D	2,240	23.9	D	209	2.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,985	D	1,139	5.4	I	1,009	5.3
Chemicals and allied products	25,905	D	1,887	6.8	I	313	1.2
Petroleum products	4,805	D	724	13.1	D	245	4.9
Stone, clay and glass products	13,470	D	2,726	16.8	I	42	0.3
Coke	6,368	I	2,356	58.7	D	452	6.6
Metals and products	16,790	I	344	2.1	I	1,222	7.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,835	D	2,910	16.4	I	475	3.3
Waste and scrap materials	11,668	D	463	3.8	D	213	1.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,455	D	1,655	13.7	I	343	3.4
All other carloads	45,707	I	2,278	5.3	I	16	0.0
LCL traffic	251	D	42	14.3	I	38	17.8
Total Cars Loaded	451,625	D	7,147	1.6	D	273	0.1
Corresponding week of 1980	488,772						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (40 weeks)	16,810,109	17,403,002	D	3.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
39 Weeks cumulative	694.4	682.6	I	1.7
Week ended October 3	19.8	19.1	I	3.4
40 Weeks cumulative	714.2	701.7	I	1.8

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